

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 26, 2002 LB 1085

people who have to haul and carry away garbage and other things that can lead to diseases, if not taken care of, the people who have to empty bed pans, who have to turn sick people over so they won't get bed sores, people whose bodies emit odors because they are literally rotting, and they do that because the important people don't want to do it. And the ones who do this hardest, most necessary work get the least respect in society, the least consideration, and the least pay. So if you want to do things by inversion, the ones who make the least money probably are doing the most necessary work. The one who gets the most money is the one you could do without, because even if he is sitting up at the top and it is always going to be a he, and he is going to always be you all's complexion; he can be jettisoned because he has other people under him doing all of the work that makes the company go. When Enron failed, the thieves were not the ordinary people who now may suffer. When Arthur Andersen was indicted, it's not because ordinary people put up...pick up their little leather lunch satchel every day and go to that drudge job and keep the company going, it's not because they did anything wrong. But they are going to suffer. When a Legislature decides to tax, they are going to pick those people who can most easily be attacked, and that's what's happening with that cigarette tax which I think is an abomination at this point. First of all, the amount is unconscionable. Secondly, we are targeting one group and, thirdly, the reason for doing it is not a justification for doing it. So I must follow my conscience. Some people follow theirs. Other people's conscience does not whip them like mine whips me.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I would rather face the ire and the dissatisfaction of my colleagues than to face my conscience when it's on a rampage. And maybe I encourage it to be that way. Maybe I trained it to be that way. Maybe I did create a monster, but my conscience says to me, you're my creator but I'm your master and it is not lying, and that's why I do a lot of what I do. And it's why I'm willing to spend all this time this afternoon trying to help us reach a point where there can be a bit more equity in the program we ultimately come up with.